(*a*) Whether it is a fact that the Government have withdrawn the ban on serving of cereal dishes in catering establishments and hotels after 5 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays from April 14th (Tamil New Year day) 1967 ; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE HON. THIRU K. A. MATHIALAGAN : (*a*) Yes ;

(*b*) The staple food of the people in this State is rice. The ban on the service of meals made out of cereals after 5-00 p.m. on Mondays and Thursdays was causing a great deal of hardship to bachelors staying away from their homes and the floating population in towns, depending on hotels and other catering establishments for their food. Several representations were also received by Government against this ban. In order to obviate this difficulty, the Government withdrew the above ban by notifying the deletion of the relevant clause from the Madras Food (Restriction on Service of Meals by Catering Establishments) Order, 1965.

THIRU K. VINAYAKAM ; Whereas the purpose of this ban on serving of cereal food dishes in the catering establishments on Mondays and Thursdays was the laudable purpose of conserving foodstuffs because of the shortage and not with any significance of fast, has the result of the removal of this ban resulted in foodstuffs accruing in large quantities in our State and, if so, is the Government giving more rations to the catering establishments now ?

THE HON. THIRU K. A. MATHIALAGAN : I cannot say that the stock has increased. But the demands of the hoteliers are taken into account and met according to the stock position.

Nellore rice

* 335 *Q.*—THIRU K. VINAYAKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food and Revenue be pleased to state whether the Hon. Minister is aware that the so-called "Nellore rice" supplied through the rice ration shops in the City of Madras is not of good and pure Nellore rice variety ?

மாண்புமிகு திரு. கே. ஏ. மதியழகன் : தெரியும். சிறந்த ரக நெல்லூர் அரிசி வழங்குவதற்குத் தேவையான ஏற்பாடுகளைச் செய்யுமாறு இந்திய உணவுக் கார்ப்பரேஷன் சென்னை வட்டார நிர்வாகி அவர்கள் கேட்கப்பட்டுள்ளார்.

அத்துடன், சமீபத்தில் ஆந்திர முதலமைச்சர் பிரம்மானந்த ரெட்டி அவர்களின் கவனத்திற்கும் தமிழக உணவு அமைச்சரவர்கள் அதைக் கொண்டுவந்துள்ளார்.

THIRU K. VINAYAKAM : As a resident of Madras and drawing rice from the ration shop, I had the pleasure of purchasing this Nellore rice after the notification came into effect. Is the Government aware that it is anything but Nellore rice, it is Renigunta or Gudur rice, and is it a fact that the quality of rice is so bad that it cannot be classified with the Nellore rice ?

THE HON. THIRU K. A. MATHIALAGAN : I have already admitted the fact that the quality is not good. On analysis by the Regional Storage Officer of the stoks of Nellore raw rice received from Nellore against the quota of 4,900 tonnes allotted recently to Madras State from Andhra Pradesh it was found that the rice differed as compared to the open market Nellore raw rice which used to be received in the past for the reasons stated below —

(*a*) The rice is of lesser polish when compared to the rice of the open market.

(*b*) The brokens content in the open market rice did not normally exceed 10 to 15 per cent formerly. But the brokens in the Nellore raw rice now despatched contained higher percentage in certain consignments.

(*c*) Though the presence of red grains is within the tolerance limit, the open market rice does not contain red grains at all.

(*d*) The rice despatched also shows presence of unhuske paddy in certain consignments. The unhusked paddy is completely absent in the open market rice.

(*e*) The rice contains admixture of Tenali and Vijayawada varieties. The Nellore raw rice in the open market is noted for its purity and though from length-breadth ratio this is to be classified as medium, it was classified as fine on account of its consumer preference, purity, less brokens and cooking quality.

(*f*) The stocks despatched are of the new crops, i.e., crops harvested in January 1967. But the open market raw rice which used to be distributed in the City was always of the old variety.

Strictly speaking, none of the points raised above show any deterioration in quality. Polish is regulated under Civil Supplies specifications, red grains are again within the tolerance limit. The Commercial Manager, Food Corporation, has however been addressed to see that there is no admixture of varieties. The representatives of Madras State at Nellore have been alerted to send better quality. The Hon. Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh, has also been informed accordingly.

Milk for marriage purposes

* 336 Q.—THIRU K. VINAYAKAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Food and Revenue be pleased to state —

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that it is very difficult to get bulk supply of milk for marriage purposes in Madras ; and

(*b*) if so, the arrangements made to get bulk supply easily from Madhavaram Milk Project ?

THE HON. THIRU K. A. MATHIALAGAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir;

(*b*) In order to alleviate difficulties of the public in getting bulk supply of milk for marriages, arrangements have been made for the supply of milk in bulk quantities to the public on demand,